Changes in judicial system

114. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are aware of the need to bring about major changes in judicial system which is burdened with antiquated laws, high costs and time-consuming routines ;

(b) if so, why no action is being taken to effect changes in such a complicated and outdated legal system ;

(c) whether it is also a fact that successful experiment of Lok Adalats is also not proposed to be taken up on all India level ; and

(d) if so, the reasons for allowing the backlog of pending cases to increase day after day ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (d) The Government is fully alive to the need of bringing improvement in the judicial system. The subject is under constant review. Pendency of cases is due to several complex factors and the Government continues to address itself to the problem of arrears. A fresh approach in this regard is, however, necessary. Government have, therefore, now dicided to set up a Judicial Reforms Commission with wide terms of reference with a view to overhauling the Judicial Administration.

The Conference of Chief Justices, Chief Ministers and Law Ministers of States held on 31st August—Ist September, 1985 had resolved that the Institution of Lok Adalats as per the scheme of the Gujarat State Legal Aid Board, should be set up in the States, save and except in the North Eastern hill States where the conditions are different. This Institution must be placed on a statutory basis, and that it should be included in the National Legal Services Law which was proposed to be passed by Parliament. The cases which were pending in courts should also referred to the Lok Adalats for the purpose of settlement. The resolution has been sent to State Governments for appropriate action.

Changes in Companies Act and MRTP Act

115. SHRI N. E. BALARAM : SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to make considerable changes in the Companies Act and the MRTP Act; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI): (a) There is no proposal in the near future for making considerable changes in the M.R.T.P Act, 1969, which has already been amended by the M.R.T.P. (Amendment) Acts of 1984 and 1985. The matter relating to amendments to the Companies Act, 1956 is under consideration of the Government and the proposals in regard thereto have not yet been finalised.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.